

Disability & Health Disparities in Washington State

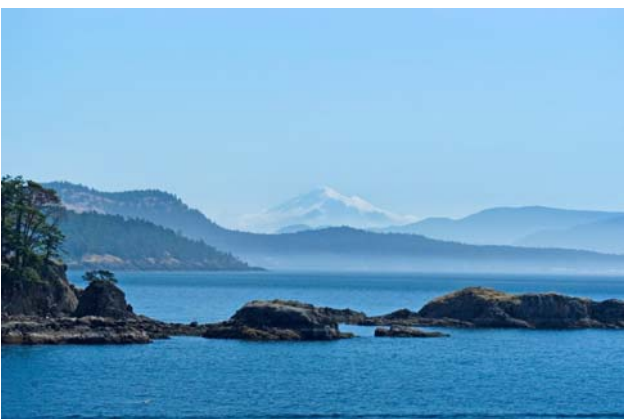
ORAL HEALTH

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

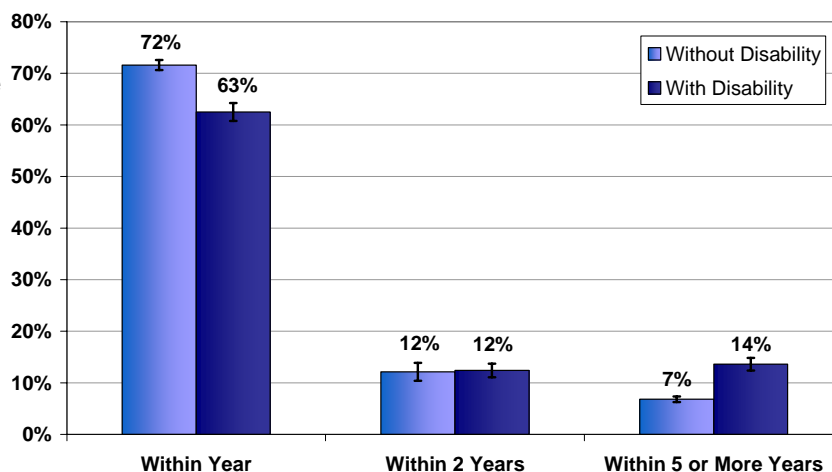
Dental Visits and Care

People with disabilities reported poorer oral health and less recent use of dental care. Compared to people without disabilities, those with disabilities:

- Were less likely to have visited a dentist for any reason in the past year.
- Were less likely to have had their teeth cleaned in the past year.
- Were more likely to have gone 3 to 5 years without tooth cleaning.
- Had lost more teeth due to infection or decay.



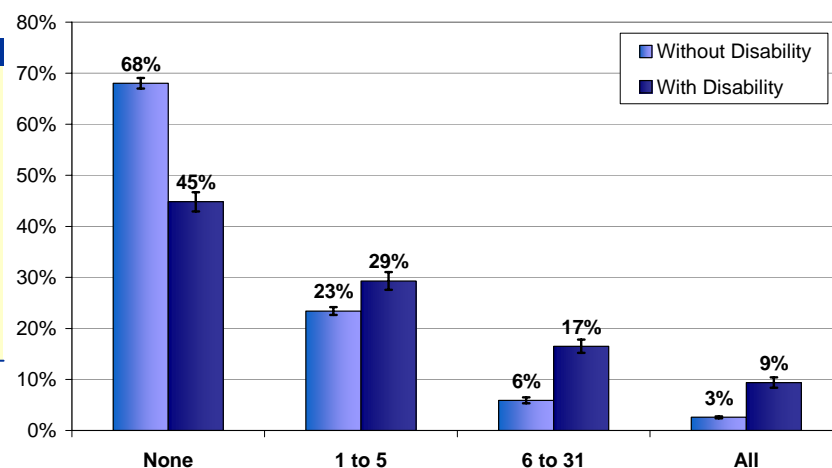
Dental Visits by Disability, 2004



Dental Insurance

According to the 2001 BRFSS, people with disabilities were significantly less likely than those without disabilities to say they had dental insurance (59% vs. 68%, respectively). Lack of insurance was strongly related to whether or not someone recently used dental care.

Number of Permanent Teeth Removed by Disability, 2004



Definition of Disability

A person with a disability was defined in BRFSS as someone who reported:

- Being limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems, or
- Having health problems that require them to use special equipment.

All statistical comparisons discussed herein were significantly different at $p < .05$. Figures show the 95% confidence intervals around sample estimates.



For more information,
contact the Washington State
Department of Health, Genetic Services Section at:

